



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Walla Walla District

News Release & Media Advisory

News Release 07-93MA

Contact: Public Affairs Office

Date: Oct. 23, 2007

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Fish slide transport ahead of schedule; to reach Lower Monumental today

Burbank, Wash. – After an over-night moorage near Finley, Wash., the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' newest spillway weir made good time navigating Lake Wallula on the Columbia and Snake rivers, locking past Ice Harbor Lock and Dam near Burbank, Wash., at about 10:30 a.m. today.

Foss Maritime Company tugboat operators now estimate the weir will arrive for lockage at Lower Monumental Lock and Dam, near Kahlotus, Wash., between 3 and 4 p.m. today where it will be installed on the upstream side of the dam into spillway bay number eight.

The weir, built under contract for the Corps by Advanced American Construction, Inc., is attached to two grain barges to improve maneuverability while being moved upriver by two Foss tugboats *Clarkston* and *Noydena*. The floatilla left Portland at about 3 p.m. on Saturday.

This spillway weir is a 120-foot high, 80-foot wide, 2 million-pound fish slide that is fitted into a dam's existing spillway bay to allow juvenile salmon and steelhead to pass the dam near the water surface.

The spillway weir design has proven an effective means of providing a surface bypass route for fish, while retaining navigation, power production, irrigation and flood-risk-management benefits to the region. A prototype spillway weir was installed at Lower Granite Dam on the lower Snake River in 2001. A second weir was installed during February 2005 at Ice Harbor Dam on the lower Snake River. Testing at Lower Granite and Ice Harbor noted averages of 96-98 percent survival for fish passing via the fish slides.

This weir demonstrates the Corps' continued commitment to improving migration conditions for ESA-listed fish. The Corps now has various surface bypass improvements at six of its eight dams on the Columbia and Snake rivers – Bonneville, The Dalles, McNary, Ice Harbor, Lower Monumental and Lower Granite dams. The Corps plans to also add surface bypass improvements at John Day and Little Goose dams in the future.

For more information about surface bypass, check out our online fact sheet at www.nwww.usace.army.mil/html/OFFICES/PA/FactSheets/SalmonSurvival_SurfaceBypassStructuresAPR07.pdf.

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NOTE

PHOTOS OF THE RSW IN TRANSIT ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT –

www.nwww.usace.army.mil/html/offices/pa/NR/NR07_files/NR07-62PIX/NR07-62PIXPage.htm

MEDIA ADVISORY FOLLOWS ON NEXT PAGE

****WEDNESDAY EVENT RESCHEDULED FOR TODAY****

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MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR LOWER MONUMENTAL DAM SPILLWAY WEIR

Fair weather conditions helped Foss Maritime Company tugboat operators make good time navigating Lake Wallula on the Columbia and Snake rivers and now estimate the spillway weir will arrive for lockage at Lower Monumental Lock and Dam, near Kahlotus, Wash., between 3 and 4 p.m. today. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Walla Walla District has **rescheduled** an opportunity for media to interview project experts and observe the spillway weir as it arrives at Lower Monumental Lock and Dam **today – Tuesday, Oct. 23.**

For access to the viewing area, **media representatives should meet District Public Affairs staff at 3 p.m. at the security station at the south shore entrance to the dam.** Those approaching from the north side of the river will be escorted across by security personnel to meet with PA staff. Security processing is required – be sure to bring media credentials and a valid U.S. identification, such as a driver's license or passport. PA staff will escort media at 3:30 p.m. to an area on the dam to observe the weir being installed. Media are encouraged to be on time.

The times of media opportunities depend on actual transportation time up the river and are subject to change depending on weather conditions affecting the transportation schedule. Media representatives desiring to attend are asked to call and confirm their interest so PA staff can arrange access to the dam and ensure enough safety equipment is available for all attending.

Please, call to pre-register for either or both media events -- Public Affairs Office, Walla Walla District, USACE, (509) 527-7020.

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